

## State Convention of Indiana.

Convention for the Brethren Church of Ind., convened at North Manchester, Sept. 26-27, 1888.

Convention was opened, by Bro. L. W. Ditch reading Rom. 12, after which the audience kneeled in prayer to Almighty God, asking his presence and His guidance in so great a work.

Next in order was an address of welcome by W. W. Summers. Brother Summers gave a hearty welcome to all present.

On motion of Bro. Summers W. C. Perry was chosen temporary Chairman. The Chairman appointed B. L. Gorden temporary Secretary.

The Chairman then appointed W. W. Summers, Hiram Switzer J. R. Stutzman as a committee on permanent organization.

Singing by the convention.

Report of committee as follows: Chairman, W. C. Perry; Sec., J. L. Kimmel; Reading clerk, Daniel Miller. Report adopted and committee discharged.

Next followed an inaugural address by the Chairman, in which he spoke of the importance of the occasion and said that something should be done by the convention that would reach forward to future years. The Chairman then asked for a reading of the programme to ascertain who was present to represent the different topics assigned.

The following persons responded: B. L. Gorden, L. W. Ditch, W. W. Summers, S. P. Stevens, J. H. Palmer, J. L. Kimmel, W. C. Perry, Daniel Miller, J. M. Rittgers, H. Helen Frame.

Bro. Gorden then moved that a programme be re-arranged for afternoon session. Carried.

The Chairman appointed the following committee: B. L. Gorden, J. M. Rittgers, S. P. Stevens. It was then moved that the convention adjourn till 1:30 p. m. Carried.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention opened by singing No. 29. "What a friend we have in Jesus," after which the Chairman stated that Bro. Summers had been called away to preach a funeral sermon.

Report of committee on programme:

1st. Time for speaking, first speech twenty minutes; second speech ten minutes, and no one shall speak more than twice on the same subject:

1st. "The mission of the church." L. W. Ditch, Adam Massena.

2nd. "Church government." J. H. Swihart, Daniel Miller.

3rd. "Mission work and the best methods for its extension." J. M. Rittgers, W. W. Summers.

J. H. Palmer moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

Bro. Ditch then proceeded to talk on the "Mission of the church," and said the mission of the church, was 1st, to preach repentance, 2nd, to destroy sin and 3rd, to promote godliness. He also gave a lengthy definition for the word Church. Said the religion of Christ had but one result and that was to unify humanity.

Second topic: "Church government." J. H. Swihart said there were local rules and general rules. Every organization should adopt such local rules as may be applicable to its wants having the Bible for its Constitution.

General rules are those which apply to all churches such as the ordinances, which must be obeyed as taught in the Bible.

Daniel Miller followed, giving a lengthy definition of the word Government. Said that in all things government was limited to what it was intended to govern. Referred to Acts 24th to show that men are inclined to govern and judge according to their own law. Also Rom. 10:12. Tim. 4:1. Let no man judge. Judgment belongs to God.

Bro. Miller was followed by J. M. Rittgers, J. H. Palmer, L. W. Ditch, D. C. Ullery, J. B. Gorden, Adam Massena.

Moved that the discussion be closed. Carried.

Moved that the convention have a night session. Carried.

Moved that the convention adjourn to meet at 7 p. m. Carried.

The convention then adjourned by singing hymn No. 48, Gospel Hymns.

## EVENING SESSION.

Convention opened by singing 1st and 2nd stanzas of No. 60 Gospel Hymns, after which S. P. Stevens led in prayer.

First topic: "Missionary work and the best method of its extension." In the absence of W. W. Summers, J. M. Rittgers spoke first. He said for the want of means a former Mission Board had died, and that at present Ind., had no such Board. Further that an organization was necessary. If the church wishes to do a grand and noble work we must not sit in fine churches and say to the people you must come, but we must fulfill the commission "Go."

J. H. Swihart moved that a State Mission Board be organized consisting of three Trustees, a Treasurer and Secretary. Carried.

The following Board was then appointed by the convention: Trustees, Enos Sala, Goshen Indiana, Henry Sprinkle, Huntington, Indiana, David Teeter, Oakville, Indiana; Treasurer, D. R. Stutzman, Dunlaps, Indiana; Secretary, H. Helen Frame, South Bend, Indiana, Box 202.

L. W. Ditch moved that each pastor of the Brethren church of Indiana, preach a missionary sermon on the first Sunday of Oct. 1888, and that the congregation immediately thereafter take up a collection and send the funds to Treasures of M. B. Carried.

Moved that a solicitor be appointed in each congregation to solicit funds for missionary purposes and forward the same to Secretary of Board. Carried.

Moved that a collection be taken up at this meeting for mission purposes. Carried. Result \$10.20.

Moved that an evangelist be appointed by the convention for the term of one year said evangelist to be subject to M. B. Carried.

J. M. Rittgers then moved that J. H. Swihart be appointed state evangelist. Carried.

L. W. Ditch moved, that the time for all officers of M. B. be limited to one year and that the evangelist receive all his salary from M. B. Carried.

Moved that the convention adjourn till Thursday 8:30 a. m. Carried.

## THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

Convention opened by singing No. 117, Gospel Hymns, and prayer by the Chairman.

Report of committee on programme. Report adopted.

Moved that we have a committee on resolutions. Carried.

Chairman appointed the following committee: L. W. Ditch, Daniel Miller, J. H. Swihart.

J. H. Swihart then moved that a committee of three be appointed by the Chairman to define the duties of M. B. Carried.

Then came regular work.

First topic: "Best methods of securing funds for necessary expenses of the local church."

S. P. Stevens said, ladies always made the best solicitors. Thought members should be assessed according to their possessions.

John Fox said, ladies should do what they can but the work should be divided. Thought assessment not a good plan. D. C.

Ullery opposed assessment. J. H. Palmer thought none should give less than one dollar.

J. M. Rittgers said, all ought to give as God has prospered them. That when an individual is converted you have no trouble to get him to give.

J. H. Swihart said, get a man to give his obligations and then hold him to it.

B. L. Gorden said, we circulate a paper and get the members to subscribe a certain amount monthly.

Daniel Miller said, the "Stand bys" should agree to pay what can't be raised by members and that he would sooner distribute money among members then collect it from them.

L. W. Ditch said, all the members should be "Stand bys."

Fifth topic: "Prayer meeting and how to conduct it." J. H. Palmer said, prayer is the very atmosphere which Christians breathe. Best way is to ask God to help you. Have a Scripture lesson and good singing.

J. H. Swihart said, we should give all members the privilege to pray. It was further discussed by S. P. Stevens, D. C. Ullery, J. M. Rittgers.

Bro. Rothenberger moved that the discussion be closed. Carried.

Sixth topic: "How to draw out lay members." L. W. Ditch thought it should read, "Lay idlers." Let the minister and others talk to them and get them interested.

John Fox said, let us go to them and have social prayer with Bible in hand, and get them interested in the work.

J. H. Swihart said, the shepherd should see where the sheep are and lead them.

S. P. Stevens said, we should impress upon our members the necessity of working.

Adam Massena said, we should make them realize that if they do what they can it will be acceptable.

Bro. Rothenberger said, that a warm grasp of the hand and a little more sociability would bring them out.

Moved that the discussion be closed. Carried.

Moved that we have an intermission of ten minutes. Carried.

Seventh topic: "The minister." J. M. Rittgers said, the minister should be a person full of the Holy Ghost. As the minister, so is his church. We have no rule in the church how minister's are to come into the church. Thought we should have a committee to examine minister's.

J. H. Swihart said, this is an important question but our plans must be in accordance with the Constitution, the Bible. Such a thing as a minister's laying on hands without being qualified is contrary to the Word of God. Let them first be proved. J. H. Palmer, who are you going to appoint? Answer. Appoint some one full of the Holy Ghost.

Moved that a committee of three brethren be appointed to look after the ministerial wants of the churches and ordain ministers. J. L. Kimmel, I am opposed to such a committee from the fact that it gives the committee exclusive power.

Motion lost.

Motion, that we defer the temperance question till 2:30 p. m. Carried.

Moved that we adjourn till 1:30 p. m. Carried.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention opened by singing No. 85, Gospel Hymns. "Jesus lover of my soul."

Topic, "Education and our school." W. C. Perry. Prof. Perry made a very able address on the subject of education and said that Ashland College had not made minister's skeptical, but faithful servants.

J. L. Kimmel then made a few remarks urging the convention to support Ashland University, saying that other churches have their schools and we need one also.

J. L. Kimmel then moved that the Constitution of Ashland University be accepted, elect three Trustees and pledge itself to its support. Carried.

The following persons were then elected Trustees: L. W. Ditch, South Bend, Hiram Switzer, North Manchester, B. L. Gorden.

Committee on duties of M. B. then reported as follows:

The Board of Trustees shall elect one of their number Chairman. Whose duty it shall be to preside at all meetings of the Board.

It shall be the duty of the Trustees to direct the evangelist to such points, as in their judgment, the greatest good might be accomplished at the least expense.

It shall be the duty of the Trustees to investigate all claims presented by the Secretary, and if found just to be allowed, and cause an order to be drawn on Treasurer, signed by the President, and countersigned by the Secretary.

The Board shall incur no expense which they have not means to cancel.

The Board shall allow the evangelist two (\$2.25) dollars and twenty-five cents per day when actually engaged and he, to pay his own expenses, and they shall report once per quarter through the EVANGELIST.

The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence, keep a minute of all sessions of the Board, sign all orders presented by the President, and make a full report to next conference.

The Treasurer shall keep account of all moneys received and expended by the Board. Committee: B. L. Gorden, J. M. Rittgers, J. H. Swihart, L. W. Ditch, Daniel Miller.

Eighth topic: "The Temperance cause." B. L. Gorden then delivered an able temperance lecture, basing his remarks on different passages of Scripture found in both Old and New Testament. He was followed by J. L. Kimmel and also by the President of the W. C. T. U., of North Manchester.

This lady made a very affecting plea for temperance, and said, mothers were especially interested in this work since mothers had to furnish the boys for the saloons, and asked the question if there were any present who had boys to furnish for the saloons?

Moved that we adopt the temperance resolution of the National Convention held at Ashland, Ohio, Sept. 21, 22, 23, 1887. Carried.

Preamble and resolution read as follows: WHEREAS, The Bible by repeated declarations teaches the duty of abstaining from intoxicating drinks in the interests of pure morality and consistent Christianity. Therefore,

Resolved, That we are in hearty sympathy with every project which gives promise of success for the legal abolition of the trade and that we favor State and National Prohibition as the only successful means of staying the ravages of the rum power.

Topic, "Sabbath School and its mission." H. Helen Frame. Sister Frame read an excellent essay on Sabbath School after which it was moved that she be requested to grant the liberty to conference to publish the essay. Carried.

Moved that we dispense with remainder of programme as it was growing so late. Carried.

L. W. Ditch moved that we substitute the word conference for convention. Carried.

J. M. Rittgers moved that W. C. Perry be elected Chairman of next years conference. Carried.

Moved that J. L. Kimmel be elected Secretary for next year's conference. Carried.

Moved that the Chair appoint three brethren as an Executive Committee to confer with Chairman and Secretary in arranging for future conferences. Carried.

Moved that J. H. Swihart be elected Vice Chairman. Carried.

Moved that the question of a delegated conference be submitted to the different churches for adoption or rejection before next conference. Carried.

Moved that this conference express its sympathy with the Sisters' Society of Christian Endeavor. Carried.

Committee on resolutions reported as follows:

1st. Resolved, That this conference suggest a plan whereby the BRETHREN EVANGELIST can be better supported and improved in its general tone.

2nd. Resolved, That this conference does not assume the prerogative of a legislative body.

3rd. Resolved, That it is the voice of the conference that every local church in Ind., should be placed under the watchful care of some duly authorized minister to see after the spiritual wants.

4th. Resolved, That this conference advise our congregation, as soon as practicable, to begin their pastoral service with the ecclesiastical year, the 1st of Oct. of each year.

5th. Resolved, That it is the advice of this conference that the safest way to raise money for church purposes is that given by Paul. 1 Cor. 16:3

J. H. SWIHART,  
DANIEL MILLER,  
L. W. DITCH, } Com.

Moved that we tender a vote of thanks to the W. C. T. U., of North Manchester who favored us with their presence. Carried.

Query box was now opened and quite a number of queries discussed.

Moved that the Secretary report the proceedings of this conference for publication. Carried.

The Chairman appointed as Executive Committee for the coming year, L. W. Ditch, B. L. Gorden, J. M. Rittgers.

Motion that a vote of thanks be tendered the Chairman and Secretary for their service during this conference. Carried.

J. M. Rittgers moved that next conference convene the 25, 26, 27, of Sept, 1889. Carried.

Moved that this conference adjourn to meet Sept. 25, 1889. Carried.

J. L. KIMMEL, Sec.

## The Heavenly Register.—Continued from 3rd Page.

we let loose, we are gone. This is wholesome theology for these times. In the glaring light of the painful defalcations of men who have long been conspicuous in Christian churches—notably of such cases as those late lamentable falls in Portland and in Hartford—how careful should every man be lest he put a frightful blot on his name in that record on 'high! He that walketh uprightly, walketh surely.

The names that suffer erasures, and which shine in that register, are the names of the faithful in Christ Jesus. Many are called, but some are choice. Their names are writ large on the roll of life, and legible afar off like the name of Hancock on that roll of patriots which King George could read across the sea. They are the crowned conquerors; for "he that overcometh shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

1. This book of life is the family record of Christ's redeemed household. All who are written there have high birth; they are God's nobility if they live in a cabin; and high birth implies high bearing. It is a sweet, cheering truth that Jesus knows every name there among the countless myriads. "I know my sheep; I call them all by name." When that record book is opened, dear reader, will your name be there?

2. We may regard it also as the roster of the royal army. Not only the great commanders of hundreds and fifties, such as Augustine and Luther, Calvin and Wesley, Chalmers and Edwards, will blaze thereon, but of the humblest private also who fought a good fight with the enemy. The brightest names there will be those who lived closest to Jesus, the central Sun of Righteousness. When that roll is called, will you and I be able to answer "here!"

3. Heaven is the resplendent city of the Great King. The book of life is its census. "Ye are come to the city of the living God, the church of the first-born who are written in heaven." We who are citizens of that glorious metropolis dwell on both sides of that stream called death. This day is the anniversary of the day on which a precious child of mine crossed that unbridged river five years ago; but we are in the same city still; I in the dingy suburbs, and she in the streets like gold! If all Christians are citizens of heaven, we should draw all our laws of life from thence, and always "report to headquarters."

Glorious book of life! When it comes to be opened, every name in it shall be heir to a magnificent inheritance.—Rev. T. L. Cuyler, D. D., in N. Y. Observer.

Not to enjoy life, but to employ life, ought to be our aim and inspiration.—MACDUFF.

Let us help the fallen still, though they never pay us, and let us lend, without exacting the usury of gratitude.—THACKERAY.